

Serial No. 10/661,191
Atty. Doc. No. 2001P03156WOUS

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 14 and 26. Thus, claims 14 and 26 are presented for examination and claims 15-25 and 27-33 are represented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 14-28, 32-33, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Lyman et al (USPN 5,045,272). Claims 26-28, 32-33, also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Bjorge et al (USPN 4,841,722).

Lyman discloses a typical power system having steam boilers, a steam turbine, a condenser, preheating units, control valves, and valves that controls the bypass fluid around the preheating units. Likewise, Bjorge discloses a typical power system having a steam boiler, a steam turbine, a condenser, a preheating unit, and control valves such that the valves that similarly controls the bypass fluid around the preheating units.

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention improves upon this typical power system configuration by increasing efficiency and power output because of the use of a branch line during low load operation and the first partial flow is preheated using bleeder steam from the turbine. Using bleeder steam from the turbine to preheat only the first partial flow ensures that only a correspondingly smaller amount of bleeder steam is required for preheating compared with traditional bleeding. Lyman and Bjorge do not disclose the claimed branch loop for use during low load operation among other things. Furthermore, Bjorge only discloses extracting steam from a low pressure turbine for use in the preheating unit whereas the Applicant's claimed invention is not limited to extracting steam from a low pressure turbine.

In view of the above, independent claims 14 and 26 are patentable. Dependent claims 15-25 and 27-33 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from claims 14 and 26 respectively, as well as based on their own merit.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

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Response to rejections under Section 103:

Claims 14-25 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Bjorge in view of DE 2164631.

In view of the remarks in connection with the Section 102 rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that Bjorge does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d) for total independent claims in excess of 3, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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